

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING NETWORK SECURITY USING  
ROLE-BASED ACCESS CONTROL**

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**5    ABSTRACT**

[0130]    A method and apparatus for providing network security using role-based access control is disclosed. A network device implementing such a method can include, for example, an access control list. Such an access control list includes an access control list entry, which, in turn, includes a user group field. Alternatively, a network device  
10    implementing such a method can include, for example, a forwarding table that includes a plurality of forwarding table entries. In such a case, at least one of the forwarding table entries includes a user group field.